

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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MICON'S AEROSPACE INITIATIVE BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – Legislation co-authored by State Rep. Joe Micon (D-West Lafayette) that will enhance the role that Purdue and other state universities and colleges play in the development of the aerospace and aeronautics industry in Indiana is going to the governor for final approval.

House Bill 1224 establishes a state aerospace and aeronautics initiative that will be administered by the new Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

"Purdue is not only the aerospace center of Indiana, but one of the aerospace centers of the United States," Micon said. "This legislation will highlight this and increase Indiana's prominence in the aerospace industry."

According to Micon, 22 Purdue graduates have flown in space, a Purdue graduate was the first man on the moon, and a Purdue graduate was the last man on the moon. Purdue's School of Aeronautics and Astronautics is a recognized leader in providing the intellectual and human capital needed by this critically important segment of Indiana's and nation's economy.

Micon said Indiana already is considered a major player in aerospace and aeronautics, thanks to such companies as Sikorsky Avionics and Butler Engineering in the Lafayette area, along with Cummins Engines in Columbus and Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis.

Among the duties outlined in the initiative are promoting Indiana's aerospace and aeronautics industries, serving as a catalyst for the development of those industries, and acting as a liaison between those industries, other businesses and local, state and federal governments.

"This legislative session, we have been focusing on all sectors of economic development," said Micon. "The aerospace industry is an area with great potential for significant growth and it is something that we should endorse."

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